

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10 and 16 are herein amended. Support for new claim 18 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 19, lines 5-8 and lines 16-28.

In the last Office Action of March 21, 2007, it was indicated that only claims 1-4 were pending. However, claims 5-17 were never cancelled following the restriction requirement of January 9, 2007 and election of species on January 25, 2007. Clarification is requested.

Claim 1 and the specification have been amended for clarity to recite “alkyl” rather than “alky” which was a typographical error. This wording can be found at the following locations in the original specification: page 18, line 21; page 19, lines 10 and 14; page 23, line 26, etc.

**Claim 1 Rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, based on Indefiniteness**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to provide antecedent basis for the phrase “said perfluoro compound layer”.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a “perfluoro compound layer” prior to referring to it using “said”. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Claim 1 Rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Furuya (EP 1,029,946)**

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuya (EP 1,029,946).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Furuya and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

The cited reference, Furuya, is part of the same patent family as JP(A)2000-239879, stated as a conventional art in the specification as originally filed (page 6, lines 2-4).

Furuya (EP1029946) carries out bonding by using fluorocarbon resin such as PTFE. To the contrary, the present invention carries out bonding by using a bonding piece having “on at least one surface a layer selected from the group consisting of: a perfluorosulfonic acid compound layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride compound layer and an alkyl ester of a perfluorocarboxylic acid compound layer.”

Further, Applicants’ specification, pages 12 to 15, discusses that a better characteristic at a bonding part is obtained by using the bonding piece having the above compounds than by using fluorocarbon resin such as PTFE.

In addition, the specification shows in the inventive embodiments and the comparative examples that a better characteristic can be unexpectedly obtained by using a perfluorosulfonic acid compound layer, a perfluorosulfonyl fluoride compound layer or an alkyl ester of a perfluorocarboxylic acid compound layer, than by using perfluoro resin such as PTFE.

In view of the above, the present invention is novel and cannot be considered anticipated nor obvious based on Furuya.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1 and 18 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosure of Furuya et al. It is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Application No. 10/812,422  
Attorney Docket No. 042196

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111


Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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